



Sustainable Monocacy Commission
Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
Basement Conference Room
30 North Market Street, Frederick, MD

MINUTES

Members present: Gary Magnuson (Chair), Andy Celmer (Vice Chair), Lonnie Ropp, Chuck Eirkson, Matt Moran, Kimberly Stewart, Bill Allen

County Staff: Kimberly Gaines, Karin Flom, Andrew Stine

Guest Speaker: Beau Lockard, Livable Frederick Historic Preservation Planner

The Sustainable Monocacy Commission's July 27, 2023, meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. on July 22, 2023.

Chair Gary Magnuson opened the meeting with a call of the membership rolls and recognition that a quorum was present.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the June 22, 2023, meeting minutes. With no corrections noted by the Members present, Gary called for a motion to approve the June 22, 2023, meeting minutes. Kim Stewart made a motion for approval that was seconded by Chuck Eirkson. Unanimous approval.

The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Beau Lockard, Livable Frederick Historic Preservation Planner. Beau provided an overview of historic migration and settlement patterns in the Monocacy River and Potomac River valleys from pre-contact through the middle of the 18th century and answered questions posed by the Members of the Commission.

The Outreach Committee's report was next on the agenda. First, Kim Stewart provided the Commission with an update regarding her recent attendance of the Nutrient Management Summit on July 17 in Annapolis presented by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). At the summit, the MDA announced a new strategy to address the current backlog in the development of Nutrient Management Plans for Maryland farmers. A new program will provide training to farmers so that they can develop their own nutrient management plans suited to their individual needs. The intent of the program is also to simplify the process for approval of these plans. Currently, MDA estimates that 25% of farmers in the State do not have an approved nutrient management plan, and there are concerns at the State level that this could lead to future action by the Environmental Protection Agency with regard to implications/impacts the lack of nutrient plans could have on efforts to improve water quality in the

Chesapeake Bay. The first of these trainings is scheduled for August 1, 2023, but Kim reported that it is already completely booked. MDA has indicated that additional future training sessions will be scheduled. If this program is successful, it could assist in easing the Nutrient Management Plan development backlog, as the Frederick County Soil Conservation District still lacks a dedicated plan writer. Approved plans are required for farmers to participate in the Cover Crop program, which is helpful to reduce runoff.

The next item discussed was the development of a comprehensive list of contacts for distribution of the 2023 Monocacy River Report. It was indicated that this list is still under development and will be revisited at a future meeting. Gary Magnuson and Andy Celmer indicated they may have additional sources for interested parties, and they will coordinate prior to the next meeting to share that information.

Kim, Matt, and Gary also indicated that ideas for a video script to be provided to Frederick County Video Services are still under development. Related to the video script, Gary Magnuson shared draft text for a Monocacy River brochure, and the language in this brochure may be incorporated into the forthcoming video script.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of a water level monitoring app that works in conjunction with the USGS gauging station system. The functionality was briefly discussed, and it was decided that the app would be reviewed in more detail at a future meeting.

Related to outreach, Andy Celmer shared information regarding a children's coloring book that focuses on water related issues, and this led to a discussion of distribution materials for the Commission's booth at Frederick "In the Streets" in the fall. Matt Moran mentioned his distribution of the Scenic River Trail Maps as a method of opening a dialogue with the public along the river. Matt also inquired about the possibility of acquiring shirts or some other identifying clothing/accessory that might be worn by the Commission on site visits (Gary mentioned polos and Lonnie mentioned pins), and Staff indicated they would research the sourcing of shirts and/or badges prior to Frederick "In the Streets."

On the subject of maps, Chuck Eirkson stated that the current edition of the Scenic River Trail Map is nearly out of stock at the Parks and Recreation Department offices. Park and Recreation indicated that the future access points identified on the Commission's Access Point Map should be included on future printings.

The Commission then moved on to Unfinished Business.

The next item discussed was progress on the 2023 Access Point Inspections. Several members of the Commission provided a brief overview of their findings and submitted materials to be compiled and organized by. Additional inspection findings may be forwarded to Staff as they are completed.

The Commission then briefly discussed its potential expansion through the addition of student members. Staff indicated that broader legislation regarding public appointments in Frederick County is currently moving through the County Council process. This item was therefore tabled until such time as more information regarding the broader legislation is available.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of priority City and County programs that the Commission may want to consider during review of the 2024-2025 budget and CIP cycles. Gary shared a draft list of proposed that he developed for review by Commission Members and discussion at a future meeting.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the 2019 Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan. This agenda item will be placed in a parking lot and will be revisited at a future meeting.

The Commission then considered New Business.

The first item of New Business was discussion of the July 8, 2023, river clean-up event. Gary provided an overview of the attendance and the items removed from the river. Gary indicated that the Division of Public Works' Department of Highways Operations assisted with the provision of gloves and trash bags and the removal of recovered trash and tires. Gary stated that the Frederick County Department of Energy and the Environment will be hosting a clean-up event on August 26, 2023, and encouraged members to attend if possible.

The second item on the New Business agenda was a closed session discussion in accordance with the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(1)(i). The closed session began at approximately 7:45 PM and was held in the same location as the Open Session (Basement Conference Room, 30 North Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701). The topic of the closed session was "the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction." Chair Gary Magnuson called for a motion to enter a Closed Session that was made by Lonnie Ropp and seconded by Matt Moran, with unanimous approval. Members present in the closed session were Gary Magnuson (Chair), Andy Celmer (Vice Chair), Lonnie Ropp, Chuck Eirkson, Matt Moran, Kimberly Stewart, Bill Allen, with Frederick County Staff Members Kimberly Gaines, Karin Flom, and Andrew Stine also being present. On the topic of discussion, the Commission unanimously approved a motion to recommend appointment of an individual to the Commission "having educational expertise or experience in the fields of biology, ecology, chemistry, earth sciences, environmental education, natural resources, or related fields" to the County Executive for consideration and appointment to the Frederick County Council, with no present Members opposed or abstaining. Following discussion, Chair Gary Magnuson requested a motion to leave the Closed Session that was made by Kim Stewart and seconded by Matt Moran with unanimous approval.

Following a return to an open session, Gary mentioned that his review of the Potomac River Report Cards is ongoing, and his findings will be shared at a later time. He also provided an update on his review of the 2012 and 2013 River Board's efforts at tire removal from the Monocacy River, as well as his efforts to identify current partners in tire removal from the river, including the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), MDE, Adopt-a-Stream, and the review of several grant sources.

With no additional agenda new business, Gary entertained comments by Commission Members and/or the public. Hearing no additional comments, Gary requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kim seconded. Unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.